

December 1, 2017

Staff and Local School Council
Lazaro Cardenas Elementary School
2345 South Millard Avenue

Staff and Local School Council
Rosario Castellanos Elementary School
2524 South Central Park Avenue

Re: Proposed Consolidation of Rosario Castellanos Elementary School and Lazaro Cardenas Elementary

Dear Staff and Local School Council Members:

Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is committed to providing every child from every community with a high quality education that prepares them for success in college and in life. CPS students continue to make record-breaking academic progress in every part of the city. Our vision is that all CPS schools can build on this progress by offering high quality, rigorous instruction from talented educators that help put Chicago students on a path to lasting success.

Cardenas School is a Level 1+ school, located at 2345 S. Millard Ave., that serves kindergarten through third grade, with a pre-kindergarten program. Students that live within Cardenas' boundary then attend Castellanos, a Level 2+ school, located at 2524 S. Central Park Ave., for fourth through eighth grade. The geographic attendance-area boundary for both schools is the same. Dr. Jeremy Feiwell has been the principal of Cardenas for the past 12 years and began serving as the principal of Castellanos on August 22, 2017.

I am proposing the consolidation of Castellanos into Cardenas. The attendance-area will not change; however, the entire boundary will be assigned to Cardenas as a K-8 attendance-area boundary. This proposed consolidation would not adversely impact any Castellanos' staff members, all of whom will be offered their current position in the Cardenas K-8 school.

This proposal is consistent with the Chief Executive Officer's Guidelines for School Actions (Guidelines) because it is a proposal requested by parents or community members via the process to request proposals outlined in the Guidelines. Specifically, the Local School Councils for both Cardenas and Castellanos submitted a letter on November 2nd, 2017 requesting the consolidation of these two schools. The resulting space utilization after the consolidation will not exceed the facility's enrollment efficiency range, as defined by the CPS' Space Utilization Standards. Additionally, the students impacted by this proposed consolidation are being provided the option to enroll at Cardenas, a higher performing school, as defined by the Guidelines.

If this proposal is approved by the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board), Castellanos and Cardenas will consolidate effective July 1, 2018. While Castellanos students will be administratively transferred to Cardenas, it is important to note that the students will continue to be educated in the two buildings to reduce disruption.



If you would like more detail about the proposed consolidation, please refer to the Draft Transition Plan that is included with this letter.

As a next step, CPS will hold two community meetings and one public hearing to hear further feedback on CPS' proposal (meeting information is below). Following the meetings and hearing, the Board of Education may vote on this proposal as early as February of 2018.

Public Comment on this Proposal

I invite you to share your feedback on the proposed consolidation of Cardenas and Castellanos during the following two community meetings and one public hearing outlined below:

<u>Community Meeting 1</u>	<u>Community Meeting 2</u>	<u>Public Hearing</u>
January 9, 2018 6 to 8 p.m. Rosario Castellanos Elementary School 2524 S Central Park Ave	January 16, 2018 6 to 8 p.m. Rosario Castellanos Elementary School 2524 S Central Park Ave	January 25, 2018 7 to 8 p.m. CPS Central Office 42 West Madison Street

If you wish to comment at the community meetings or hearing, you must sign up to speak on the day of, at the designated location, beginning one hour before the designated start time and ending one hour after the start of the meeting or hearing. You will have two minutes to speak, unless the hearing officer or meeting organizer provides an extension. The hearing will conclude at the stated end time or following the comments of the last person who has signed up to speak, whichever occurs first.

Thank you in advance for your feedback as we work to provide all Chicago Public School students with the high quality education they deserve. After the community meetings and public hearing, I will review a written report from the hearing officer and at that time, I may recommend that the Board consider and approve the consolidation of Castellanos and Cardenas.

Further Questions and Concerns:

All of this information can be found at CPS.edu/Transitions. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this proposal and the Draft Transition Plan, please call Chicago Public Schools at (773) 553-1500 or email Transitions@cps.edu.

Sincerely,

Forrest Claypool

Chief Executive Officer
Chicago Public Schools